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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI MARR EGEN PGOV PINR VN

SUBJECT: SAIGON MISSION NORTH VIETNAM BI-WEEKLY NO28

SUMMARY: LE DUAN GAVE THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT HANOI'S CELEBRATION OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WORKERS PARTY. HE APPEARED TO ALTER THE NORMAL CADENCE OF COMMUNIST CONDITIONS FOR AN END TO THE WAR IN THE SOUTH, INEXPLICABLY OMITTING THE STANDARD DEMAND FOR THIEU'S OUSTER, AND ARGUED AGAINST TOTAL RELIANCE ON MILITARY FORCE. THE COMMUNIST REACTION TO FATHER THANH'S "POLITICAL INDICTMENT" LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT THIEU AND "ALL HIS GANG" MUST GO, ALTHOUGH THE DRV IS OBVIOUSLY DISILLUSIONED BY THIEU'S "ULTRA-RIGHTIST" OPPOSITION. A RECENT REPORT INDICATES A NEW NVA GENERAL IS NOW MILITARY COMMANDER OF COSVN, AND COSVN HEAD PHAM HUNG IS REPORTED RECENTLY RETURNED TO NORTH VIETNAM FOR CONSULTATIONS. THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTER, IN A RECENT SECOND LETTER, TRIED A LESS STRIDENT APPROACH TO HIS THAI COUNTERPART IN HIS EFFORT TO INDUCE THE RTG TO CONTROL THAI-BASED U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY AND SEEK BETTER RELATIONS WITH HANOI. COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO CONDEMN PRESIDENT FORD'S SUPPLEMENTAL AID REQUEST. SO-CALLED "POPULAR ELECTIONS" WERE REPORTEDLY HELD BY THE "PRG" IN PARTS OF NEWLY-CAPTURED PHUOC LONG PROMINCE, APPARENTLY ACCOMPANIED BY A PURGE OF PERSONS LOYAL TO
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THE GVN. NEW LIGHT HAS BEEN CAST ON THE MID-'60'S PARTY DISPUTE IN HANOI, WITH INDICATIONS THAT A NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS WERE IMPRISONED. HANOI'S CABINET HAS DECREED THAT THE NATIONAL LUNCH BREAK WILL BE REDUCED FROM TWO HOURS TO 30 MINUTES. THE DRV ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH TOGO, AND THE NEW BELGIAN AND CANADIAN AMBASSADORS TO HANOI PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS. ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA HAVE SIGNED AID AGREEMENTS IN HANOI, AND THE DRV GAVE AID TO BOTH THE LAO GOVERNMENT AND THE LAO

PATRIOTIC FRONT. PRINCE SIHANOUK HAS ARRIVED IN HANOI TO CELEBRATE TET. THE "PRG" CONTINUED TO CLAIM IT HAD ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND REPORTED THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY'S DEBATE ON RECOGNIZING THE "PRG". HUNGARY AGREED TO PROVIDE FURTHER TECHNICAL AID TO THE "PRG". END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

A. LE DUAN'S SPEECH ON THE VWP ANNIVERSARY

1. IN A SPEECH ON THE 45TH PARTY ANNIVERSARY 3 FEBRUARY, PARTY FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN OFFERED AN ARGUMENT FOR THE KIND OF PRAGMATISM AND POLITICAL FLEXIBILITY WITH WHICH HE HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED IN THE PAST. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, HIS FORMULATION CONCERNING THE "IMPORTANT CONDITIONS" FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT SEEM STUDIOUSLY VAGUE ON THE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT PRESIDENT THIEU MUST RESIGN AS A PRELIMINARY TO NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE NOTING IN ONE PARAGRAPH THAT THE WAR WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS THIEU IS IN OFFICE, LE DUAN LATER OMITTS ANY REFERENCE TO THIEU IN DISCUSSING "OUR PEOPLE'S STAND". HENCE, HE ASSERTS, "A COMPLETE END TO U.S. INVOLVEMENT AND INTERFERENCE AND FORMATION IN SAIGON OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION WHICH STANDS FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL CONCORD AND WILL SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT AT PRESENT CONSTITUTE MOST IMPORTANT CONDITIONS FOR EACHING A SETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAM ISSUE." ALTHOUGH ONE COULD ARGUE THAT THIS FORMULATION DOES NOT RULE OUT A HARD LINE ON THIEU'S OUSTER AND NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS INTERESTING THAT DUAN DOES NOT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE HARD LINE EXPLICIT. (HOWEVER, THE STANDARD FORMULATION HAS CONTINUED TO APPEAR IN LESS AUTHORITATIVE SPEECHES AND ARTICLES).

2. ALSO NOTEWORTHY IS LE DUAN'S REPEATED INSISTENCE THAT TOTAL RELIANCE ON ARMED FORCE IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE LESSONS

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OF HANOI'S PAST. IN EFFECT, HE SEEMS TO BE ARGUING FOR A STRATEGY OF MIXED FORCES IN THE SOUTH--LOCAL, GUERRILLA AND POLITICAL AS WELL AS MAIN FORCES--WHICH INCIDENTALLY WOULD BE LESS COSTLY FOR THE HOME FRONT THAN A STRICTLY CONVENTIONAL MILITARY EFFORT.

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3. LE DUAN LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH REMAINS A PARAMOUNT CONCERN AND THAT THE COUNTRY IS ON THE VERGE OF A "NEW PHASE" OF PLANNING. HE STATES: "THE EPOCHALLY SIGNIFICANT VICTORY OF THE ANTI-U.S. NATIONAL SALVATION RESISTANCE HAS OPENED UP A NEW PHASE IN THE STRUGGLE TO LEAD THE NORTH TO SOCIALISM, TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRACY IN THE SOUTH AND TO PROCEED TO PEACEFUL NATIONAL REUNIFICATION." AND ELSEWHERE: "THE YEAR 1975 IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE, THE YEAR IN WHICH THE PERIOD OF REHABILITATION ENDS AND PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW STAGE ARE MADE-- THE STAGE OF ACCELERATED SOCIALIST INDUSTRIALIZATION IN THE NORTHERN PART OF OUR COUNTRY." THESE STATEMENTS REINFORCE OTHER RECENT EVIDENCE THAT THE REGIME IS STILL DETERMINED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH MORE RATIONAL LONG TERM ECONOMIC PLANNING DESPITE CURRENT MILITARY COMMITMENTS. (A RECENT NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESS EDITORIAL, FOR INSTANCE, PROMISED INAUGURATION OF THE LONG ANTICIPATED FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN NEXT YEAR, THUS CONFIRMING THAT THE PLAN HAD NOT BEEN ABANDONED IN DEFERENCE TO CURRENT MILITARY CAMPAIGN IN THE SOUTH.)

4. FINALLY, LE DUAN IS STRIKINGLY CANDID IN HIS WARNINGS TO PARTY DISSIDENTS AND BACKSLIDERS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF NOT TOEING THE LINE. HIS REMARKS LEND CREDENCE TO OTHER INDICATIONS THAT HANOI'S CURRENT POLICIES REMAIN CONTROVERSIAL AND THAT THE REGIME IS HAVING TO CONSIDER STRONG MEASURES, INCLUDING A PARTY PURGE, TO ENFORCE THEM.

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5. INCLUDED ON THE PRESIDIUM OF THE MEETING WERE DRV PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG, VICE-PRESIDENT NGUYEN LUONG BANG, THE ENTIRE VWP CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PHAM HUNG), AND "PRGRSV" SPECIAL REPRESENTATION ACTING HEAD LE KHOAN HONG. IN A BRIEF OPENING SPEECH, POLITBURO MEMBER TRUONG CHINH CALLED THE PARTY ANNIVERSARY A "GOOD OPPORTUNITY" TO IMPROVE THE POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL STANDARDS OF PARTY MEMBERS AND CADRES AND TO INCREASE THEIR "ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE" IN PARTY LEADERSHIP. VWP FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN THEN DELIVERED THE PRINCIPAL ADDRESS AT THE MEETING.

6. NORTH VIETNAMESE INFORMATION MEDIA MARKED THE OCCASION WITH LENGTHY SERIALIZATIONS OF THE LATEST VERSION OF THE PARTY HISTORY (AN ANALYSIS OF THE NEW PARTY HISTORY WILL BE INCLUDED IN A FUTURE NUMBER OF THE BI-WEEKLY). NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF A NUMBER OF EARLY PARTY FIGURES. IN WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MOST NOTABLE BLUNDERS IN ITS LONG PUBLISHING HISTORY, "NHAN DAN" WAS FORCED TO REPUBLISH THE OFFICIAL LIST OF PARTY ANNIVERSARY SLOGANS. THE SECOND LIST ADDED A SLOGAN AFFIRMING THE VWP'S GRATITUDE FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA, AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, A SENTIMENT ABSENT FROM THE FIRST LIST.

7. ALTHOUGH BILLED AS ONE OF THREE "IMPORTANT" ANNIVERSARIES TO BE OBSERVED IN 1975 (SEE NORTH VIET-NAM BI-WEEKLY NO.27), THE PROPAGANDA AND CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE VWP'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY WERE RELATIVELY SUBDUED. THE EVENT WAS CHARACTERIZED LESS BY THE JUBILATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN 1970 THAN BY A SOMEWHAT SOMBER CALL FOR REDEDICATION TO PARTY PRINCIPLES.

B. HANOI CRITICIZES "POLITICAL INDICTMENT"

1. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE EXPRESSED SERIOUS DISPLEASURE OVER THE "POLITICAL INDICTMENT" SIGNED FEBRUARY 1 BY FATHER TRAN HUU THANH AND A NUMBER OF OTHER POLITICAL OPPOSITION FIGURES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. IN A FEBRUARY 9 ARTICLE, "NHAN DAN", DISMISSING FATHER THANH AS AN "ULTRA-RIGHTIST", CHARGED THAT THE DOCUMENT "MARKS A SWITCH" OF LEADERS OF THE "ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT TO POLITICS". THE NEWSPAPER CLAIMED THAT "CERTAIN POINTS" OF THE "POLITICAL INDICTMENT" ARE EITHER "VAGUE" OR "RUN COUNTER" TO OPOULAR ASPIRATION.
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TIONS. "NHAN DAN" SEEMED PARTICULARLY UPSET OVER THE "INDICTMENT'S" CLAIM THAT THIEU HAD COMMITTED "HIGH TREASON" IN SIGNING THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE DOCUMENT'S DENUNCIATION OF THE COMMUNISTS AS "FOREIGN AGGRESSORS". THE ARTICLE ALSO FOUND FAULT WITH THE "INDICTMENT'S" DEMAND FOR THIEU'S RESIGNATION, SAYING THAT NOT ONLY THE PRESIDENT BUT "ALL HIS GANG" MUST BE REPLACED. "NHAN DAN" CONCLUDED THAT THE SIGNERS OF THE "INDICTMENT" WANT THE OUSTER OF THIEU ONLY TO ALLOW FOR "EVEN MORE FRANTIC OPPOSITION TO THE NLF AND THE PRGRSV."

2. COMMUNIST REACTION TO THE RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THIEU'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS REFLECTS THE COOLING ARDOR WITH WHICH HANOI VIEWS THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT AND THE INCREASINGLY GREAT GAP BETWEEN THE THEORETICAL "URBAN STRUGGLE" TOUTED BY THE COMMUNISTS AND THE REALITIES OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLITICAL LIFE. IN A COMMENTARY ON FEBRUARY 8, LIBERATION RADIO NOTED THAT ALL HELP IN FORCING THIEU'S OUSTER IS WELCOME, BUT THAT THE RECENT "INDICTMENT" HAS RAISED "MANY QUESTIONS" ABOUT THE MOTIVES OF THOSE WHO SIGNED IT.

END UNCLASSIFIED - BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

C. MAJOR NVA PERSONALITIES IN THE SOUTH

1. A RECENT RALLIER HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH VIETNAM THAT PROVIDES STILL FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HANOI'S OVERALL DOMINATION. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE CURRENT MILITARY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF COSVN, THE COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS FOR THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE COUNTRY, IS COLONEL GENERAL TRAN VAN TRA

, A MEMBER OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN NORTH VIETNAM, WHO BRIEFLY REPRESENTED THE SO-CALLED PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG) ON THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION RIGHT AFTER THE PARIS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. THE CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE COMMUNIST ATTACK ON SAIGON IN THE 1968 OFFENSIVE, TRA REPLACES COLONEL GENERAL HOANG VAN THAI, WHO LEFT COSVN AND RETURNED TO NORTH VIETNAM IN 1973, WHERE HE ALSO IS A MEMBER OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE RALLIER'S REPORT, TRAN NAM TRUNG, THE PRG'S "MINISTER OF DEFENSE", IS ACTUALLY AN ALIAS FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL TRAN LUONG, ANOTHER NORTH VIETNAMESE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER.

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ENIOR GENERAL VAN TIEN DUNG,
NVA CHIEF OF STAFF, WAS OVERALL COMMANDER OF THE 1972 OFFENSIVE,

WITH HIS HEADQUARTERS IN NGHE AN PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM. A FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR TO PARTY JOURNALS UNDER THE PSEUDONYM "QUYET THANG", DUNG HAS BECOME DE FACTO DEFENSE MINISTER SINCE HIS BOSS, GENERAL GIAP, IS SUFFERING FROM A SERIOUS PHYSICAL DISORDER.

3. IN OTHER PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENTS, THE RALLIER NOTES THAT GENERAL SONG HOA, THIRD RANKING OFFICER OF THE NVA, AND A FREQUENT PUBLICIST (ALIAS "CHIEN BINH") WAS ONE OF THE LEADING COMMUNIST COMMANDERS IN QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN PROVINCES-- THE SCENE OF MAJOR FIGHTING--DURING THE 1972 NVA OFFENSIVE. END CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN SECRET/NOFORN

D. COSVN HEAD VISITS HANOI

ACCORDING TO A RECENT COMMUNIST RALLIER, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF COSVN, THE COMMUNIST COMMAND FOR THE SOUTHERN HALF OF SOUTH VIETNAM, TRAVELED TO HANOI IN NOVEMBER 1974 FOR CONSULTATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE SOURCE SAYS THAT THE OFFICIAL, PHAM HUNG, WHO IS A NORTH VIETNAMESE POLITBUTO MEMBER, WAS DUE TO ATTEND THE FOURTH PARTY CONGRESS EARLY THIS YEAR, HIS MISSION MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN RELATED TO THE "23RD PARTY PLENUM" WHICH WAS MENTIONED SECRET

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RECENTLY IN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESS AND WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS HELD IN EARLY WINTER 1974. ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, THE 23RD PLENUM FOCUSED ON IMPORTANT MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH AND ISSUED A POLICY RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT. (CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENARY SESSIONS ORDINARILY ARE HELD ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR TO CONDUCT THIS SORT OF BUSINESS.) ALTHOUGH SOME REPORTING FROM NORTH VIETNAM HAS ALSO REFERENCED AN UPCOMING "FOURTH" PARTY CONGRESS, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALLY HAVE GIVEN LITTLE INDICATION THAT ONE IS SCHEDULED. PREMIER CASTRO OF CUBA RECENTLY REKINDLED SPECULATION ON THE SUBJECT WITH A BRIEF REFERENCE TO SUCH A PROSPECTIVE PARTY CONGRESS IN 1975. IN CONTRAST TO A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENARY, A PARTY CONGRESS WOULD BE A MAJOR POLITICAL EVENT IN THE NORTH, REFLECTING LONG RANGE POLICY DECISIONS. THE LAST PARTY CONGRESS WAS HELD IN 1960, WHEN THE REGIME LAUNCHED ITS LATEST, LONG TERM POLICY OF AGGRESSION IN THE SOUTH. END SECRET/NOFORN

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

E. DRV FONMIN TRIES ANOTHER APPROACH TO THAI FONMIN

1. FOLLOWING THAI FONMIN CHARUNPHAN'S UNYIELDING RESPONSE TO HIS FIRST LETTER OF LAST NOVEMBER (SEE NVN BIWEEKLY NO. 23), DRV FONMIN NGUYEN DUY TRINH SENT A SECOND LETTER, DATED 25 JAN, WITH A CONSIDERABLY MUTED SET OF EXPLICIT DEMANDS TO BE MET BEFORE THE THAIS CAN IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE DRV. TRINH'S NEW LETTER

DROPS THE PREVIOUS DEMAND THAT THAILAND "COMPLETELY AND PERMANENTLY END THE PRESENCE OF THE US TROOPS AND MILITARY BASES IN THAILAND." IT INSISTS INSTEAD THAT THE THAIS "NOT ALLOW THE US TO USE THAI TERRITORY AGAINST" INDOCHINA, PERHAPS HINTING THAT FULL WITHDRAWAL IS NO LONGER REQUIRED. FURTHER, IT DEMANDS ONLY THAT THE THAIS SHOW THEIR "DESIRE" THROUGH UNSPECIFIED "PRACTICAL ACTIONS" IN ORDER TO GET NORMALIZATION TALKS GOING. BY BLAMING THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE THANOM REGIMMMME, WHICH "WAS OVERTHROWN", AND BY DATING THE LETTER THE DAY AFTER THAILAND'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THE DRV PITCH WAS OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT THE YET-TO-BE-FORMED NEW THAI GOVERNMENT (SEE SAIGON 1507, NOTAL).

2. NHAN DAN'S "COMMENTATOR", IN AN AUTHORITATIVE FOLLOW-UP PIECE, NOTES THAT "MANY" CANDIDATES AND PARTIES IN THE THAI ELECTIONS DEMANDED "DISMANTLEMENT OF US BASES" AND SAYS
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THAT NVN'S "PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED TO DEMAND THAT THE US COMPLETELY WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS AND DISMANTLE ITS BASES IN THAILAND," BUT, LIKE THE TRINH LETLLR, STOPS SHORT OF DEMANDING THAT THE RTG FORCE THE US OUT. INSTEAD, "THE THAI SIDE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE US TO USE THAI TERRITORY TO OPPOSE" THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE AND SHOULD ESTABLISH FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES" WITH THE DRV.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HANOI IS IN FACT PRESENTING A NEW POSITION REGARDING RELATIONS WITH THAILAND OR SIMPLY ATTEMPTING TO LURE THE NEW GOVERNMENT INTO MAKING CONCESSIONS. END
CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

F. DRV, "PRGRSV" DENOUNCE FORD SUPPLEMENTAL AID REQUEST

1. VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS CONTINUED TO CONDEMN U.S. PRESIDENT FORD'S REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY AID FOR SOUTH VIET-NAM. "NHAN DAN", RADIO HANOI AND LIBERATION RADIO HAVE ACCUSED THE U.S. OF HAVING "BRAZENLY DISTORTED" THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND OF PURSUING THE "BANKRUPT POLICY" OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. A FEBRUARY 5 "QUAN DOI NHAN DAN" COMMENTARY CHARGED FORD WITH EFFORTS TO INTENSIFY "NEOCOLONIALIST WAR IN THE SOUTH" AND BRANDED EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO SOUTH VIET-NAM A "REPETITION OF A SERIOUS ERROR" WHICH HAD ONCE LED THE U.S. TO "DISASTER". THE COMMENTARY AVERRED THAT "NO AMOUNT OF AID" COULD SAVE THE GVN FROM DEFEAT AND WARNED THE U.S. OF "EVEN MORE SERIOUS SETBACKS" IN THE FUTURE.

2. ON FEBRUARY 8, THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF THE DRV AND THE SO-CALLED "PRGRSV" ISSUED SIMILAR STATEMENTS "STRONGLY CONDEMNING" THE U.S. DECISION TO SEND 17 USAF LOGISTICIANS TO SOUTH VIET-NAM. THE DRV STATEMENT CALLED THE MOVE A "NEW AND EXTREMELY SERIOUS STEP" AND CHARGED PRESIDENT FORD WITH REPEATING A "PROCESS OF INTERVEN-

TION AND AGGRESSION."

G. "PRG" IN PHUOC LONG HOLD ELECTIONS

ACCORDING TO A CLANDESTINE LIBERATION RADIO BROADCAST OF
3 FEB, THE "PRG" RECENTLY STAGED SO-CALLED "POLULAR ELECTIONS" FOR
"VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATION" IN PARTS OF
RECENTLY-CAPTURED PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, INCLUDING THE PROVINCIAL
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CAPITAL. DESPITE "PRG" CLAIMS OF DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN
A VERY RARE OCCURRENCE ANYWHERE IN COMMUNIST-HELD AREAS OF SVN,
AND THE PARTY'S APPOINTIVE POWERS IN AREAS "UNDER WAR OF RESISTANCE
CONDITIONS" ARE LIBERALLY USED. THUS THESE ELECTIONS, IF ACTUALLY
HELD, WERE PROBABLY MAINLY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES. THE
BROADCAST ALSO REPORTED THAT "OUR COMPATRIOTS HAVE INTENSIVELY
TAKEN PART IN THE SEARCH FOR OR HELPED OUR COMBATANTS COMB OUT
ENEMY REMNANTS LIVING AMONG OUR PEOPLE," PROBABLY INDICATING
THAT THIS "ELECTION" WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PURGE TO ELIMINATE ALL
PERSONS LOYAL TO THE GVN. END UNCLASSIFIED

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USLO PEKING
4TH PSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC
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CIA
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RHMFTAWXJUSMAAG
WHITE HOUSE
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BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

H. DISSIDENCE IN THE RANKS

THE SAME SOURCE AS FOR ITEM C ABOVE HAS OFFERED NEW INSIGHTS

INTO A PARTY PURGE LAUNCHED IN THE MID-1960'S WHICH HAS GRADUALLY COME TO LIGHT. POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE "HOANG MINH CHINH AFFAIR" (AFTER ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL VICTIMS, A FORMER PROFESSOR AT THE PARTY SCHOOL IN NORTH VIETNAM), THE CRACKDOWN CENTERED ON A LARGE GROUP OF MILITARY OFFICERS AND HIGH-RANKING POLITICAL CADRE WHO WERE OPPOSED BOTH TO HANOI'S PROFESSEDLY "NEUTRAL" STAND IN THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE AND TO ITS POLICIES OF AGGRESSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE CONFLICT WAS JOINED IN 1963 WITH THE DISSEMINATION OF PARTY RESOLUTIONS WHICH SET OUT THE LEADERSHIP'S POSITION ON BOTH ISSUES. IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH, THE EDITOR AND ASSISTANT EDITOR OF "NHAN DAN", THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH THEY SUPPORTED IN THE SINO-SOVIET CONTROVERSY. AT THE SAME TIME, MAJOR GENERAL DANG KIM GIANG, ASSISTANT COMMANDER OF NVA REAR SERVICES, REPORTEDLY BEGAN SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF PARTY MEMBERS AND MILITARY OFFICERS IN AN EFFORT TO ORGANIZE A "SECOND" COMMUNIST PARTY THAT WOULD BE OPENLY PRO-SOVIET AND DEDICATED TO A POLICY OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE". THE GROUP CONINCIDENTALLY ADVOCATED WINNING OVER THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM BY SECRET

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BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY AND A "TRUE" SOCIALIST STATE IN THE NORTH, RATHER THAN THROUGH LARGE MILITARY OFFENSIVES.

2. HARRIED AND SURVEILLED THROUGHOUT THE MID-1960'S, GIANG'S GROUP WAS FINALLY ROUNDED UP AND ARRESTED SYSTEMATICALLY, BEGINNING IN AUGUST 1968. THE LIST OF DETAINEES--MANY OF WHOM REMAIN IMPRISONED AT THE BAT BAT DETENTION CENTER IN HA TAY PROVINCE--READS LIKE A ROSTER OF HANOI'S ONCE MOST PROMISING MILITARY AND POLITICAL FIGURES. AMONG THEM:

LIEUTENANT GENERAL NGUYEN VAN VINH, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY REUNIFICATION COMMITTEE;

SENIOR COLONEL NGUYEN TRONG NGHIA, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT, NVA GENERAL STAFF;

SENIOR COLONEL NGUYEN TRONG HIEU, FORMER CHIEF OF CABINET, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE;

LE LIEM, FORMER ASSISTANT COMMANDER, POLITICAL GENERAL DEPARTMENT, NVA;

UNG VAN KHIEM, FORMER PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR;

NGUYEN VIET, FORMER EDITOR OF "THOI MOI" MAGAZINE;

VIET PHUONG, FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY TO PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG;

TRAN VAN GIAU, A PROFESSOR AND A NATIVE OF SOUTH VIETNAM WHO WAS CONSIDERED THE MOST EMINENT HISTORIAN IN NORTH VIETNAM (AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE WORKERS CLASS").

ACCORDING TO THE RALLIER, EACH OF THESE INMATES AT BAT BAT DETENTION CAMP IS CONFINED TO A CELL SIX METERS IN SIZE. HE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE CELL ONLY FOR MEALS AND IS PERMITTED TO MEET WITH HIS FAMILY ONCE A MONTH IN A SPECIAL ROOM EQUIPPED

WITH VISUAL AND AUDIO MONITORING EQUIPMENT AND MANNED BY NORTH VIETNAM'S MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY. END CONFIDENTAIL.
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

I. NORTH VIETNAMESE ABANDON SIESTA

HANOI RADIO FEBRUARY 6 BROADCAST THE TEXT OF AN UNDATED DRV COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLUTION SETTING A 0800-1630 WORKDAY FOR ALL STATE EMPLOYEES AND MILITARY PERSONNEL. THE NEW SCHEDULE, WHICH WILL GO INTO EFFECT MARCH 3, ALLOWS FOR A ONE-HALF HOUR LUNCH BREAK. THE RESOLUTION CLAIMED THAT PRESENT HOURS ARE
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"IRRATIONAL" AND HINDER WORK PERFORMANCE AND POINTED OUT THAT A NUMBER OF SOCIALIST AND NONSOCIALIST COUNTRIES ALREADY WORK AND UNINTERRUPTED 8-HOUR DAY. ALTHOUGH THE NEW SCHEDULE IS UNLIKELY TO BE GREETED WITH MUCH ENTHUSIASM, HANOIANS MAY HAVE BEEN HEARTENED BY THE RESOLUTION'S RULING THAT CUSTOMARY FRIDAY NIGHT MEETINGS OF AGENCIES AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS NOW ARE TO BE HELD FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AND ARE LIMITED TO TWO HOURS.

J. DRV DIPLOMATIC AND AID DEVELOPMENTS

1. THE DRV ESTABLISHED AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO ON 8 FEB. THE FIRST BELGIAN AND CANADIAN AMBASSADORS TO THE DRV PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS IN HANOI ON 31 JAN. BOTH ARE RESIDENT IN PEKING.

2. THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION TOURING NVN (SEE NVN BIWEEKLY NO. 27) SIGNED AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO THE DRV ON 3 FEB AND DEPARTED THE FOLLOWING DAY. ACCORDING TO "TANJUG", YUGOSLAVIA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN HANOI ON 10 FEB TO BUILD AND SUPPLY A FODDER CONCENTRATE PLANT AND A CHIP-BOARD PLANT. EAST GERMANY ON 9 FEB SENT A TEAM OF ENGINEERS TO HANOI TO BUILD 18 "ARTISANS' WORK-SHOPS". A FRENCH FIRM SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN HANOI ON 7 FEB TO BUILD A \$2.6 MILLION ANISE EXTRACT FACTORY 94 MILES NORTHEAST OF HANOI UNDE
R

A 1973 FRENCH/DRV FINANCIAL PROTOCOL.

3. MEANWHILE, HANOI'S AMBASSADOR TO LAOS TURNED OVER 32 TRUCK-LOADS OF "AID GOODS" TO THE BORIKHAN PROVINCE GOVERNOR IN THE PRESENCE OF PGNU OFFICIALS ON 1 FEB, PROMISING THAT THE DRV WOULD "NOT ONLY SUPPLY THE LAO PEOPLE WITH GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS AS AID BUT ALSO HELP LAOS BUILD A ROAD TO THE SEA THROUGH VIETNAM." EARLIER, ON 30 JAN, A DRV IRRIGATION DEPT DELEGATION CEREMONIOUSLY PRESENTED A "SECOND" DRV-BUILT HYDROELECTRIC PLANT OF UNSPECIFIED CAPACITY TO THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT IN "AN AREA OF HOUA PHAN PROVINCE", LONG A COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD. THIS IS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF THE DRV'S PECULIARLY CALLOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD LAO SOVEREIGNTY AND PATERNALISTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LPF AND THE LAO TERRITORY

IT CONTROLS. (SEE NVN BIWEEKLY NO. 7.)

4. AS HE HAS DONE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK AND HIS WIFE ARRIVED IN HANOI, FEBRUARY 9, TO SPEND THE SECRET

SECRET

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TET HOLIDAYS IN NORTH VIET-NAM. SIHANOUK AND HIS RETINUE WERE GREETED AT GIA LAM AIRPORT BY DRV PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG, GENERAL VO NGUYEN GIAP AND FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH. AN EVEN MORE ILLUSTRIOUS DEPUTATION, INCLUDING PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG AND VWP FIRST SECRETARY LE DUAN, GREETED THE CAMBODIAN VISITORS AT THE GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE IN HANOI. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, SPECIAL ADVISER OF THE RGNVC VICE-PREMIER'S OFFICE IENG SARY ARRIVED IN HANOI ON A 'FRIENDSHIP VISIT' AT THE INVITATION OF NGUYEN DUY TRINH. SARY, WHO APPARENTLY HAD ARRIVED FROM THE 'LIBERATED AREAS' OF CAMBODIA, WAS LODGED IN THE GUEST HOUSE WITH SIHANOUK.

K. "PRG" DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

THE CLANDESTINE LIBERATION RADIO CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN (IN THE FACE OF REPEATED DENIALS BY THE GOI) THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD ON 22 JAN "ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (SIC) WITH PRG AND ALLOWED IT TO SET UP ITS GENERAL DELEGATION IN INDIA." LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT ON THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY DEBATE ON ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH THE "PRG", AND DID NOT MENTION THE RESULTING RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE "PRG" TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA WITHOUT BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GVN. THE 10 FEB REPORT NOTED AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S ASSERTION THAT THE "THIEU REGIME WILL BE TOPPLED." ON 31 JAN, HUNGARY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN BUDAPEST TO PROVIDE THE "PRG" WITH "FURTHER ASSISTANCE" IN TECHNICAL TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED. LEHMANN

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